


MAY 1951

 BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record

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PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION



When Fingers are Eyes



GOD GO WITH YOU

The American Bible Society supplies Scriptures of all types and in many languages to service men.

A Maximum of Service

BY FREDERICK W. CROPP

FROM the Fleet Marine Force Chaplain I recently received, in addition to his letter of thanks for Scriptures we had sent him for his men, the following report from the Korean front:

Our rations, fuel and supplies are flown in by airlift and dropped by parachute. For several days we were held to two meals a day. We are camped knee-deep in mud. Last night and today it got bitter cold, so the mud is navigable. . . . The picture looks dismal. However, I can truthfully say the chaplains are giving a *maximum amount of service*.

"A maximum amount of service"—what a supreme tribute to the chaplains!

Let us look behind that phrase. What does it mean!

It means that soldiers in garrison or in the field meet their chaplains in the mists of early morning and in the dark hours of the night. For where the men are, the effective chaplain is certain to be found. By the time combat comes, the good chaplain is a familiar sight. He has welcomed the recruit to the first station. He has lectured on citizenship and moral values. He has been the ready counselor; the light in his chapel office is often turned on before daylight and off after taps. The chaplain is there.

As men train in mock warfare, go through the build-up of muscle and morale, the chaplain is there. He is on the long marches; he is in the dust and mud of maneuvers; he, too, crawls along the infiltration course.

Again and again the chaplain is on duty when all others can be relieved of duty. For in addition to following the week-day training schedule, the chaplain has his Sunday assignments—the climactic day toward which his whole week has been pointing.

"A maximum amount of service" is given by chaplains long before combat duty begins. The chaplain, unlike other military personnel, has no opportunity for week-end passes or leaves.

And once in combat, the chaplain has truly a twenty-four-hour day. He is as far forward as the situation allows; he is usually at the forward aid station; often his jeep is used to evacuate the wounded. He ministers also to those who are engaged in the long, long line of logistics, supplying the men at the front with the necessities of survival.

To render "a maximum amount of service" a

chaplain realizes that it is impossible for him to be everywhere. There are many times when a man is on his lonely own—when he has to be his own chaplain.

For such emergencies and to undergird the chaplains' work, the Scriptures are provided. An effective chaplain knows that the man to whom he has provided a New Testament has been equipped with a tested spiritual weapon, "the sword of the Spirit," which is the Word of God.

That is why these good chaplains continue to secure and distribute Scriptures in such large amounts.

I have before me, as I write, a collection of correspondence from some of these chaplains. In the first three months of 1951 we have supplied requests for 50,670 Bibles, 215,677 Testaments, 76,080 Portions, a total of 342,427 copies of the Scriptures.

A chaplain writes from a large camp:

The amazing thing to me is the higher percentage of men during the present emergency who are expressing a desire for church membership. The percentage so expressing themselves during World War I was negligible; in World War II, moderate; but we seem to be arriving at a sober conclusion that man needs the church and God in the present emergency. The reason I am bringing this up is because I feel a conviction that the Bible Society and its unselfish devotion to the spirit of the Gospel, through making Bibles and spiritual Portions available, has had a great deal to do with the upsurge in religious interest.

Perhaps the one which touched me most was one from a sailor on a well-known battleship. His letter reflects the work of an alert chaplain. He writes of his New Testament:

I sincerely like it. It is well printed and of a very convenient size for out here, where space is sometimes at a minimum.

It was only a few months ago that I was reborn. I had a copy of the New Testament but desired a complete Bible, so I could learn more about God and His Word. Through your kindness and thoughtfulness my wish was fulfilled. Thank you very much.

Readers of the *Bible Society Record* deserve to know how their contributions have enabled chaplains all around the world, ashore and afloat, in garrison and in combat, in hospitals and in chapels—everywhere their men are—to continue to give "a maximum of service."

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 96 MAY · 1951 NUMBER 5

A Record Year

JUST BEFORE this issue of the *Bible Society Record* went to press the 135th annual meeting of the Society was held at the Bible House. The most significant item in the report of the Board of Managers was that the Society's total distribution of Scriptures for 1950 was 11,056,584 volumes, which was an increase of 25 percent above the year before and has been exceeded only twice before in the Society's long history except for three of the recent war years, when the total was abnormally lifted by the millions of Testaments furnished to our Armed Forces, numbering twelve million men.

It is significant that the two other years that exceeded 1950 were years of great prosperity in the late twenties. A study of these figures seems to indicate that, when the American people support the Society with generous gifts, the books go out. In 1950 the Society received the most generous support in all its history, exceeding the largest budget it had ever adopted.

A still larger budget has been in faith adopted for 1951, and the indications are already appearing that this budget will be met and that the year's distribution may again set a new record.

An encouraging feature of the increased distribution for 1950 was that part of it achieved within the United States. The figure was 6,230,370—the largest

peacetime figure in the Society's history, exceeding that of 1949 by more than 30 percent.

Other items high-lighting the report for 1950 were that the Society

¶ Surpassed the previous year by almost 50 percent in the annual distribution of embossed volumes and Talking Book records for the blind, with a total of 28,110;

¶ Published over 2,000,000 copies of the Gospel of Luke in magazine form, with 64 illustrations and two maps;

¶ Supplied Testaments in nine different languages for the men in the United Nations forces fighting in Korea;

¶ Reached the total of 3,000,000 volumes distributed in Japan, the quota set for the year;

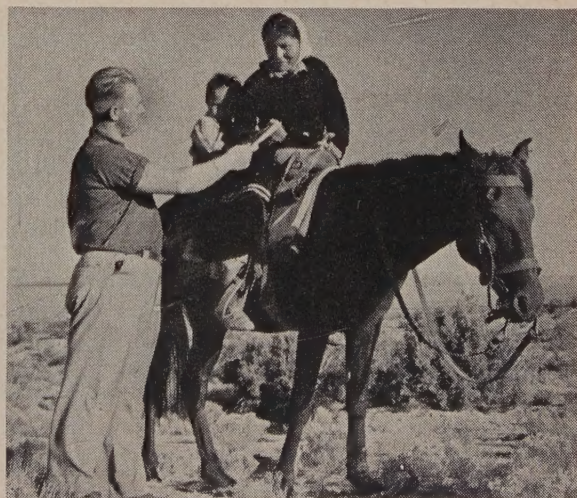
¶ Sent to Japan the "Good Will book" containing the original signatures of over 33,000 American people who had contributed to the fund for supplying Scriptures for the Japanese;

¶ Purchased and equipped a fireproof warehouse in New York to facilitate the shipment of its Scriptures;

¶ Saw the celebration of Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, spread in the seventh year of its observance to thirty-eight nations.

This picture happened to be taken among the Navaho Indians, but might have been taken anywhere on earth where the American Bible Society is at work. It epitomizes the ultimate task of the Society, all of whose processes—of aiding translators of the Scriptures, publishing them and supplying them in the languages required—eventuate in bringing the Word of God persuasively to the attention of persons without copies, who but for the Society might not ever be able to secure a copy. This work the Society does entirely without purpose of profit, many thousands of its books placed in eager hands at a mere fraction of their cost or free of all charge.

The Board of Managers' Report, attractively bound as a forty-two-page illustrated brochure entitled "The Bible, Book of Freedom," has been printed in a limited edition for distribution at the Annual Meeting. Copies will be sent as long as the supply lasts to anyone upon receipt of ten cents in stamps to cover postage and handling. Address requests to Recording Secretary, AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.



Among Prisoners of War in Korea

“WHAT lessons have you learned from reading the little Gospel booklets I left with you last week?” This question was asked by Chaplain Harold Voelkel as he met for the second time with a group of officers in a huge prison camp of North Koreans

located near Pusan at the south tip of Korea. A week earlier he had preached the Gospel to these men, taught them to sing the chorus of a Gospel hymn and to recite John 3:16, and had left them copies of the Gospel of Matthew to read.

When the chaplain, who has been a missionary in Korea for many years and speaks their language fluently, asked his question, an officer stood up and told the story he read in the booklet of the farmer who turned his vineyard over to others and at harvest time sent a messenger to get his share. The messenger was badly treated, and also a second messenger; and finally the owner sent his son, whom the tenants killed.

“Good,” said Chaplain Voelkel, “Do you understand that this is a parable?” When the officer said he did, the chaplain probed the bright young Communist officer further.

“Now you know the contents of the parable all right, but do you get the spiritual lesson taught by



There were more than five thousand prisoners in this compound as Chaplains Voelkel and Wildman spoke to them

the parable?”

“Yes,” replied the officer. “The son in the parable stands for Jesus, God’s Son, who came and died for us.”

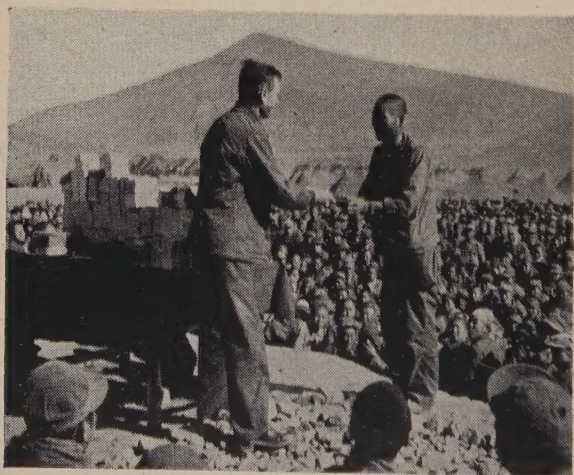
This young North Korean officer’s response was only the first of several that were given with equal insight to Chaplain Voelkel as he ques-

tioned the prisoner officers that night.

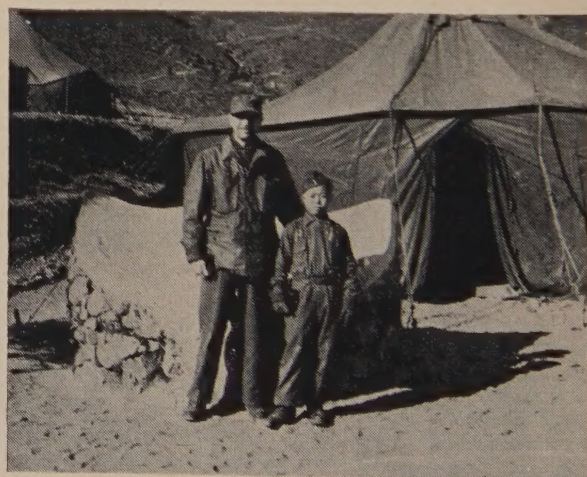
He writes (and his letter was dated in early February): “The need for Korean Scriptures is as great if not greater than ever; for many Christians, having had to flee their homes, lost their Bibles in the confusion. Moreover, among the South Korean soldiers in training, hundreds of thousands of them; and their wounded in hospitals, thousands more; and the enormous numbers of prisoners of war, 134,000 at present, the call for copies of God’s Word is tremendous.”

At about the same time came a letter from Chaplain Albert C. Wildman, who works in the same area. He closes his letter with these words: “It seems to me that here in Korea we have the choice of giving over this land to communism or of offering them something better.”

Of course that something better is Christianity. The accompanying pictures make vividly real the strategic opportunity we have in Korea at the mo-



A prisoner is awarded a Scripture portion after arising and repeating a Bible verse in front of the crowd of six thousand



This POW was fourteen the day the picture was taken. He has his Bible in his hand as Chaplain Voelkel stands beside him

ment. It has been estimated by missionaries who have spent their lives in Korea that not ninety percent of the thousands of prisoners in South Korea, although they served in the North Korean forces, are Communists at heart. Most of them were impressed into the Northern Army and are happy to have been rescued from hands that had enslaved them. They are not only good material for recruiting into the South

Korean Army, but they are, as the chaplains have discovered, promising candidates for the Christian life. God does indeed work in mysterious ways. But when He is ready He sets before us opportunities from which all mystery has been removed. The prisoner-of-war situation in South Korea is one of those crystal-clear opportunities. Shall we seize it?

Every Christian a Missionary

A Good Workman does his best work when he has the Right Tools, and even an Apprentice makes better progress when Properly Equipped

BY I. STUART McELROY

IT is my intention to learn how many families are without Bibles in my locality and try to place an order with check to cover for as many as are necessary. I cannot tell you how grateful I feel for what you are doing in this field." So wrote an earnest churchwoman in North Carolina who had originally asked that a free grant of a Bible be made to a Negro family in her city. The placing of this single Bible gave her a vision of opportunity and responsibility that might easily come to any Christian who is loyal to his Lord's great commission—"Go ye..." Copies of the Scriptures in the hands of church workers are the best of missionary tools.

The American Bible Society undertakes to provide the Scriptures in various forms, just as tools are supplied the artisan, suited to different needs. Below are given just a few suggestions which it is hoped will move more than one reader to seize his opportunity and accept his responsibility to become a Bible missionary himself.

Is there a displaced person in your community? The chances are that he would greatly appreciate a Bible in his native tongue. He may be mentally starved for reading matter in his own tongue. Under such circumstances he would read the Bible you gave him, even though he had never been interested in the Bible before. In the case of many displaced persons it is suggested the visitor ascertain what two languages the newcomer to our shores reads and his order of preference. A whole Bible may not be available in the language of his first choice, but a New Testament might be. Your new friend might also appreciate having an English Bible. Lay the situation before the nearest Office of the American Bible Society, who will advise you what books are available and at what prices they may be had.

Is there a little struggling mission in your community? Maybe the workers there would like a Bible

for their pulpit. The Bible Society has one which during the late war was chosen for 2,600 of the Army chapels. It has large type and is a far more handsome book than is indicated by the modest cost-price the Society asks.

Do you know a blind person who can read with his fingers? Maybe he has no Bible. It requires twenty volumes to publish the whole Bible in the popular grade of Braille used by most blind people—but you could secure for your blind friend a few of these volumes at a time. Or if your blind neighbor does not read with his fingers, you could secure for him some of the 169 double-faced discs on which the whole Bible has been recorded and which he can use on a Talking Book machine. A letter to the Bible Society will bring full details about its service to the blind.

Have you ever thought of supplying your pastor with Scripture volumes to give to every new member who comes into the church? Or maybe your pastor would be glad to have a modest supply of Bibles or Testaments to give to prospects for the Christian life or others he meets in his parish visiting. Write for one of the Bible Society's catalogues and sit down with your pastor and discuss with him books he could use.

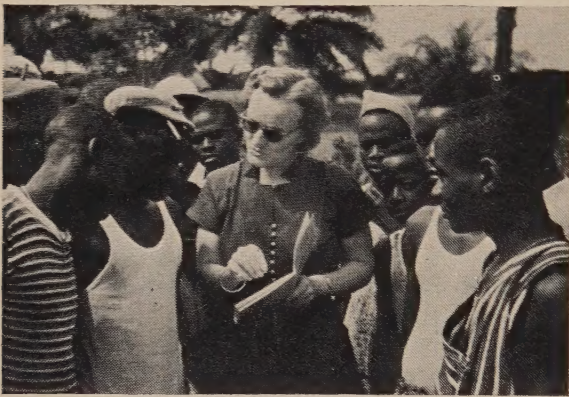
These are just a few of the many ways in which any church worker may become a Bible missionary. There are many other opportunities—in hospitals, prisons, orphanages, bus stations, tourist homes, schools, libraries and elsewhere. Try it. The chances are that you will join the woman from North Carolina who, out of an interest in a single Negro family who needed a Bible, developed a new zeal for Bible distribution on a larger scale and out of her consequent experiences could write to the Bible Society, "I cannot tell you how grateful I feel for what you are doing in this field."

A Visit to Liberia

This land, with changes coming rapidly in its economic, cultural, social and political life, must be saved by the Gospel of Christ, presented in its own native dialects

BY PAUL A. COLLYER

IT WAS a long, hot, dusty and tiresome ride from Monrovia to Ganta over the one motor road in Liberia. It had taken all day to cover the 180 miles to the Methodist mission station, where for twenty-five years Dr. George Harley has been ministering to the Mano tribesmen. Around Dr. Harley's dispensary there have been built a school, church, leper colony, garden and saw mill, which have served to bring health of body, economic improvement and the Gospel of Jesus to the Manos. The mission compound had been carved out of the jungle. Even more difficult than clearing land, building buildings and bringing in supplies over what until recently was only a jungle



Miss Norma Bloomquist of the United Lutheran Mission is also director of the national literacy program in Liberia. This picture was taken at the Firestone plantation, where people of various tribes are employed. The young men in the picture are trying their hand at reading for the first time

path was Dr. Harley's attempt to win the confidence of the hinterland tribespeople. But Dr. and Mrs. Harley and their co-workers toiled patiently and persistently. Today the people come to this oasis in the jungle not alone to receive healing for their bodies, but also to confer with the missionaries regarding the many problems of family and tribal life.

Norma Bloomquist, a Lutheran missionary and director of the national literacy program, and I stopped at Ganta on our way to Zorzor for the annual conference of the Lutheran Mission and churches. Leaving Ganta, we crossed the river that separates Liberia and French Guinea on a raft propelled by manpower. Most of the way through French territory and then back into north eastern Liberia was over a road that was no more than two wheel-tracks through the jungle. At times the tall elephant grass hid our car from view. Most of the way, trees and vines formed an arch overhead that shaded us from the hot tropical

sun. At one point driver ants, which completely devour all animal flesh they find, formed a thickly packed line across the road. Though elephants, leopards, monkeys, antelopes and snakes inhabit this bush country, we saw only a few antelopes and many brightly colored birds. Several times we passed hunters with their bows and iron-headed arrows. We crossed one other river by raft, while the native boy who was with us crossed the stream on a monkey bridge made of twisted vines swung between the trees on opposite banks. Fortunately, the many smaller streams were low, for we had to ford some of them. Many times the axles of the car scraped the mound of earth between the wheel-tracks. In one place where a stream had run out of its course and onto the road, we slid off the hard-packed tracks and into oozing mud. We had to wait for some passers-by to help us get the car back into the tracks.

It took us twelve hours to get from Ganta to Zorzor, a distance of 175 miles; and Zorzor was at the end of a road over which a car could travel. Beyond lay only the thick jungle, populated by the Loma tribesmen, whose mud-hut villages were connected only by jungle trails.

It was only eighteen months since I had signed the grant which had provided 1,000 volumes of the Gospel of Mark translated into Loma for the people of this area. Never before had this small tribe had any part of the Scriptures in their own language. Recognizing that the Scriptures were essential for the winning of this tribe to Christ, Dr. Wesley Sadler, a Lutheran missionary, had translated the Gospel of Mark. Now bound in their attractive, bright-red covers, these Gospels were in the hands of many people who were not only learning to read by using them, but also were slowly coming to know Christ as Saviour through the message they contained.

It was too soon to see any great results achieved through the use of the Gospels. Most of the Loma people had never seen a book before and didn't even know how to hold one or what to do with one. Only one or two persons in many villages could read, and the long and laborious task of teaching the art of reading must be undertaken before the Gospels could become most effective. Working under the consecrated leadership of Miss Bloomquist, the missionaries and a few trained Liberians were beginning the task of making Liberia a literate nation. Primers for use in most of the many tribal languages have been prepared. Slowly a few of the people are beginning to recognize written symbols which indicate the sounds

upon which the languages are built. Gradually the combinations of symbols begin to take on word-meanings, and the tribesman has discovered how to read. And when the Loma man and woman has learned to read, there is a printed Gospel ready to tell them of God's wondrous love.

For generations the Loma people have had neither books nor a written form for their language. Now that both are available, many persons see no need for learning to read. Tribal life has been well organized. Life has been very simple, according to western standards. Daytime is spent in the fields and in the bush, raising food for the family. No light in the mud-huts at night makes reading impossible. For these reasons many of the tribespeople see little or no value in learning to read. In addition to teaching the art of reading, the missionaries must provide incentive. The incentive must come from a love of Christ which will change the desires of men and will cause them to want, through reading the Gospel, to know Him better.

Until the Gospel of Mark was translated, the missionaries and native pastors and evangelists had to translate and interpret from the English Scriptures. But now, as these workers read and teach from the Loma Scriptures, the message is more compelling because it is in the people's own language. At Wosi, along a jungle path, I watched and listened as Mrs. Sadler was teaching the wives of a former village chief to read from the red-covered Book. They listened with rapt attention.

It will be a long time before the Loma tribe is a Christian tribe, but that time can and will come, because the Gospel can now reach the hearts of the people in the language they understand.

After six days in Loma country we returned over the same roads and through Mano, Gio, Kpelle and Bassa country to Monrovia, the capital. Along the way we talked with missionaries and natives who are doing for their tribes what is being done for the Lomas. In other areas the translation and literacy program is in various stages of development.

Liberia is a land of great undeveloped natural resources. In recent years Firestone has developed two large rubber plantations. Just now Republic Steel and some other interests are beginning to work a very rich iron-ore deposit. These projects are not only affecting the economy of the country; they are also seriously disrupting the social and political controls, as they bring people from the many tribes in all parts of the country and assemble them in work camps. What will be the end of this mixing of people of many tribes and languages remains to be seen. Already the result of the loosening of the tribal hold on many people can be seen in their conduct and independent attitudes.

The democratic government is trying to keep ahead of the rapid transition. The United States has economic, health and cultural missions in the coun-

try. Probably Liberia will be the scene of some Point IV projects. Liberia is active in the United Nations and other international bodies.

Many Liberians still live entirely within the old framework of tribal life, but a transition is coming rapidly to the whole country. Probably a majority of the people are unprepared for so great and so rapid a change. Unless Liberia receives the Gospel into her heart, she will be building her new life on sandy foundations. Economic, cultural, social, political and scientific information are not substantial enough to provide a firm foundation for a new national life. All these must be refined and cemented together by the Gospel.

The American Bible Society is seeking the way whereby more can be done in the translating of the Scriptures for these people. It is cooperating, where possible, in the literacy effort. It is publishing the acceptable manuscripts as they are sent in by the mis-



This student evangelist is reading from his Loma Mark to some of the worshipers, following a church service in the village of Bokesa, far back in the jungle trails of Liberia

sionary translators. There remains to be developed a program of Scripture distribution and use which will provide for every person, as he becomes literate, a copy of God's Word. The Bible Society is ready to move forward in this needy field as soon as Christian people in America provide the resources which will underwrite the cost of a permanent agency program there.

For Refugees in Italy

Mr. Theodore J. Kleinhans of the Lutheran World Federation recently wrote:

We have just received the shipment of Scriptures for Italy which were forwarded from New York, and we want to thank you for making them available to our agency. I recently had the opportunity to visit several of the police camps in Italy, where the new shipment of Gospels will also be used, and saw many an American Bible Society Scripture volume lying beside the bunks of these refugee internees. That many of these men read the same Bible—whether in Russian, Rumanian, Italian or German—gives them a sense of purpose and common faith without which their lives would be hopelessly barren.

New Horizons

And the eyes of the blind shall see out of

BY S. R. U

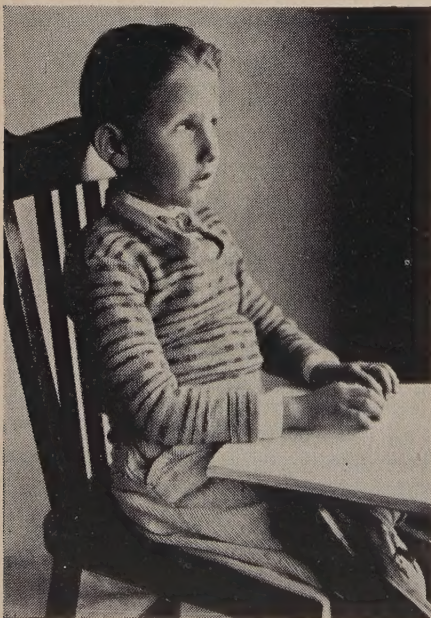


Taking their Braille volumes to Sunday school



The Braille Scriptures are enjoyed in China too

Getting an early start in Bible reading



A NAVY VETERAN still in his teens was just completing a week of lessons in Braille and having a rather difficult time, what with his sudden blindness and calloused finger tips, when a Braille Bible, consisting of twenty large volumes, arrived at the Veterans Hospital. The boy sat quietly while the packages were being opened. An attendant, seeing his curious interest, handed him one of the volumes, which happened to be the Psalms. At first the lad just thumbed carelessly over various pages of the book, but finally, touching upon the Ninety-third Psalm, his fingers began slowly to press out each letter, then a word, a phrase and at last a complete verse. When after several minutes he had finished reading this short Psalm, an expression of radiance came over his worn face, and he said, "Oh, may I take this volume with me to my room?" Who could have refused his request, and who can tell what new hope and courage will arise out of the opportune arrival of this bulky Bible?

Last November Colonel C. E. Vandenberg, in the Army in Korea, became interested in a Korean blind boy who was acting as an interpreter for the Americans. This boy had lost all of his possessions in the bombing of Inchon. The colonel asked that a Bible in English Braille be sent this unfortunate lad. At first the New Testament in five volumes and the Psalms in one volume were shipped. In February came word that these volumes were delivered to the boy, who with his family was evacuated from Inchon to Pusan, and where the colonel, after a long search, found him safe and well. Through this blind boy the Society hopes to help other needy handicapped in Korea who are in even more distressing circumstances.

During the first bombing of Seoul all of the Scriptures which had recently been printed in Korean Braille were destroyed, which means that the Society will have to start all over again preparing new editions of the Korean Scriptures for this war-torn section of our world.

The year 1950 was by far the greatest year in the Society's 116 years of service to the blind, thousands of bulky embossed volumes and Talking Book records being distributed at home and abroad. Braille Scriptures were sent in increasing numbers to Veterans Hospitals and Facilities, schools for the blind and libraries while the bulky Moon Scriptures (one Bible in Moon consists of 58 large volumes and costs over \$200) were sent to homes for the aged and those unable to read the fine points of the Braille. Many blind ministers and Sunday-school teachers received their first Braille Bibles and were able to carry on their

Blind girl reading her Braille Bible to the sighted members of the class



work just as they did when they had their sight. Expressing deep gratitude, one blind minister wrote: "I can never tell you how much your Society has done for me in providing me with the Braille Bible." A sighted pastor, writing on behalf of a needy blind girl, came this word: "I cannot tell you how thrilling it was for Myrtle to receive the wonderful Braille Bible. She was overjoyed with the gift and cannot s



Happy in the possession

r the Blind

nd out of darkness - - Isaiah 29:18

RETT



New Testament

of 7,300 Braille volumes to the needy blind in that country, and there
hundreds of blind persons still awaiting their volumes.

Latin America the New Testament in seven volumes and also the
s and Proverbs in Spanish Braille have been completed, and Portuguese
e Scriptures for Brazil are being provided in additional quantities.

nging the Bible to the deaf-blind has brought numerous responses of
ude. One dear lady, being deaf as well as blind and practically an
d, says the Braille Bible means "twice as much to me as the average
person."

e Scriptures for the blind have gone out in thirty-four different languages
ystems, and always at a very small fraction of their cost or as a gift to
edy.

e grateful recipient wrote: "Now I can read again. This afternoon my
e Bible was delivered to me, and I am so grateful for it. The greatest
hip of all to me has been
ability to read my Bible,

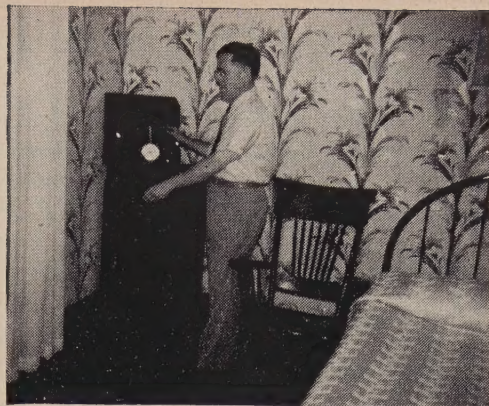
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recipients continually say,
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praising God for this answer to her prayers for a complete Bible in her own finger language."

A major achievement of the year 1950 was the completion of the second recording of the entire Bible on 169 Talking Book records for the thousands of blind persons unable to read with their finger tips. In asking for a set of the Society's Small Volume of Scripture Passages on two records, a dear lady said, "I know that all who, like myself, have lost their sight really receive a new lease on life in having the Bible. We pass many hours with these records which would otherwise be very lonely. I hope you will be able to continue with this great and important job." The Gospel of Luke on five records was especially used at Christmas time in many blind homes. A supervisor of an old folks' home, in a letter dated December 25, wrote: "The machine works well, the voice of the reader is charming and our folks listened in quietness. All through the second chapter one could feel the joy of the holidays."

Not only was the work for the blind expanded in the homeland last year, but the Society was able to respond in a larger measure to the needs of the crippled and blinded and deaf of the countries ravaged by war. Shipments of Braille paper were made to Germany and to Finland, together with metal and cloth for printing and binding. Several tons of paper were sent to Japan early in 1950, and another large shipment left New York for Japan early in 1951. From the first shipment of Braille paper the Japan Bible Society distributed last year a

Readers of the Spanish Braille with their teacher, Miss Alta Hawes, at right



Enjoying his evening Bible-reading with the help of a Talking Book record



Japan: Mr. T. Yoshimoto teaching his Bible class of blind children



Philippines: Rev. Felino C. Florendo, with his Braille Bible and accordion

Brazil: Reading the favorite volume of Scripture passages for the first time in Portuguese Braille



Young Bin Im Carries On in Tokyo

Another chapter in the exciting life of the Secretary of the Korean Bible Society and in the preservation of the manuscript of the Korean Bible in revised spelling

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

MORE than one reader of the *Bible Society Record* has written the editors, since word was published in November of the survival of Rev. Young Bin Im and his family, as to their fortunes since the first liberation of the city of Seoul last September. It was many weeks after the city again fell into Communist hands in December before any word came of the subsequent whereabouts of Mr. Im and his family. The first word was a very brief note that they were in Pusan, where the place they called home was just large enough to allow them space to lie on the floor to sleep; and that Mr. Im was negotiating for

a passport to Japan, where he could superintend the printing of the Korean Bible, which had been rewritten in the new simplified Han Kuhl spelling recently adopted by the Korean Government. The story will be recalled of how Mr. Im preserved most of this manuscript; how he had first taken the precious sheets from his office to his home in Seoul; then later, when homes like his became subject to search, sent the manuscript out into the country for safe keeping in the home of a trusted farmer friend, while he himself barely escaped seizure and possible liquidation by hiding in a woodpile back of his house while it was under careful search.

The next chapter can now be told. It is taken from Mr. Im's letters written in March to the editors. Last fall he attempted to set up his office again in Seoul, although the Bible House had been completely destroyed. This hope was short-lived, as the Chinese Army's drive was soon threatening Seoul again. For the sake of the Bible manuscript Mr. Im decided to flee to Pusan with the hope of getting eventually to Tokyo to complete his work of setting the type, making the plates and producing an edition of the new Korean Bible.

The description of his trip of 300 miles from Seoul to Pusan is heartbreaking. He had no money, as he had shared all he had with his office staff in their

own desperate plight. He had sent his family by ship to Pusan earlier. His household goods he had likewise sent by another shipping company. He was finally able to get passage by rail for himself. He traveled in a

box-car in which there were about 150 persons piled on top of the luggage and others riding in the bitter cold on the top of the car. Some of the latter froze to death during the eight-day trip. On his arrival at Pusan Mr. Im found his family, but not his household goods. He wrote Secretary North:

I put the revised Bible manuscript in my trunk, but when the last moment came to send the luggages, I took the

manuscript out of my trunk and kept it in my small suitcase. I just took it out unconsciously without any knowledge that the trunk would be lost. The trunk was lost and the manuscript was saved. I feel that God has worked in my mind so that I could save the manuscript. I cannot help but believing in miracle. The experience that I have passed through last eight months forces me to believe in miracle. The life that I have now is an extended one through the special grace of God. If there were no special grace of God that worked for me, I would not live now—I would not be a human being. When I think of it I cannot help but feeling gratitude. Although I lost everything, I am grateful that God has saved me. Although I am exposed to the storm of life, I feel stability, for the saving God is surely with me. I might come to a time that I ought to die, but I will not be sad; I will die peacefully, for it is also through the grace of God.

With regard to the new Korean Bible, Mr. Im writes:

I am now working on those pages that have been burned last summer. Four hundred pages were burned; but when I was in Korea, about 300 pages were revised. Now just 100 pages are left over. I asked a printer to make matrices of Korean alphabets. The cost shall be Yen 272,335. It will take three months to finish them. When they finish to make them, they must cast types out of matrices. After those preliminary procedures real work of setting type shall be started. But the limit of my passport is dated on May 16. I must ask the extension of the limit. When I tried to get passport in Korea, they thought that



Young Bin Im at work revising the spelling of the Korean Bible in the Bible House in Tokyo

I was intended to get away from war—fleeing from the country in order to save my own life while my copatriots are suffering from the war. That was their mistaken thought. I explained them that I was going to Japan not because I was afraid of the war but because I must fulfill my responsibility as a Bible Society man. I shall work in Japan as hard as anybody in Korea. It seems to me that if the printing will come to its final finish, it will take at least eight or nine months.

Proofreading of 2,000 pages of the Korean Bible may be a difficult task that I have to fulfill, but I am not afraid

of it, for I know that God will help me as he always has.

It will be also necessary to bring my family here. It will be good economically, as well as for the education of my children. All school buildings in Pusan are occupied by army. Education cannot be carried on very well . . .

I think the mission of the Bible Society is tremendous. The Korean Bible Society is an incorporated body of American, British and Scottish Bible Societies. Through the cooperation of the Bible Societies they are able to show the Korean people what the Christian mission means.

Life Blossoms in the Desert

The accompanying map sketch has been lifted from that of the great northwest corner of vast China. The missionary who sends in the story lives in Kiuchuan. The story he tells is another of those that make unanswerable the claim that God speaks directly from His Great Book with redeeming and transforming power

BY W. S. C. WALKER

LAST WEEK end I paid my first visit to the country since coming here. This was not because I had not wanted to go before, but hosts of things have cropped up which repeatedly wrecked plans which were again and again renewed. At last, however, Liu Ting-tu, the leading deacon, was free to take me. Liu Shui is a small town sixteen miles from here on the old Kintah motor road. The Misses French and Cable visited it several times when operating in this part of the world. From there one goes three more miles into the heart of nowhere to find six small homesteads parked in the center of miles and miles and miles of barren, alkali-loaded country. At the moment the whole place is frozen solid, but in about another month's time water will be oozing everywhere, and the whole will be one huge bog. Even the floors of the homes in this little settlement will ooze water as the folk move about from place to place. For a month or more this place is unapproachable, so we had to get this initial visit in before the thaw came. There in this out-of-the-way corner one found something really to cheer the heart of any Panhandle worker. One could almost call it the only bright spot in the district.

Years ago the three ladies, the Misses French and Miss Cable of the China Inland Mission visiting Liu Shui, sold a Gospel to a man named Yang. He could not read, but took it home and put it by. Later his brother visited them and read the Gospel, became intensely interested and made several trips into Kiuchuan to hear more. Finally he became converted and went back to be used of the Lord to bring his brother and the brother's whole family to the Lord. Those two men are dead. The widow of the original buyer of the Gospel is still alive and, together with her two sons, their wives and six grandchildren, is still rejoicing in the Lord.

Opposition was bitter at first, but gradually one after another of the surrounding homes have been

won to the Lord; and, stretching out, they have touched their neighbors on every side, with the result



that now, from all quarters, men and women come—the nearest three miles away—to gather every Sunday for service. All are living on the brink of starvation, barely wresting a living from the inhospitable Gobi desert; yet this Yang family have put up a room (20 x 20 feet), whitewashed it within and without and suitably furnished it to serve as a chapel. And all this was a spontaneous movement of the Spirit, for I was the first missionary to tread that ground and visit their home. They reckon they have between forty and fifty men and women from the scattered homesteads who are real believers, and the Lord seems to have worked not merely in individuals but in whole families.

We planned to visit the district with the tent last August and also to have baptisms, but as you know the political events upset our plans. But if all goes well, this summer should see a wonderful gathering and witness to the Lord in the Chinese Fifth Moon (June 1950). Now that I have been taken once, and can find my way alone, I am planning regular visits to them in the future.

"I Don't Believe . . ."

BY GEORGE A. OSTERGREN

"I DON'T believe in God or the devil, heaven or hell, and I don't want a Testament or a Bible. There is nothing in there but a collection of crazy stories." These were the first words I heard when I went in for my initial interview with a newly come prisoner to the Virginia State Penitentiary, where I serve as chaplain. Throughout the rest of the conversation the tense young man maintained a stubborn, sullen silence. But I did not; I went right on with my words of instruction and warning, with full knowledge of the chap's godless home and evil associates. The lad left my office hurriedly, as if running for his life from something sinister and threatening.

After four weeks in a road camp he was returned to the prison for medical treatment. As soon as possible he secured a pass to see me again. This time he was a different man. He explained what had happened.

"Maybe you don't remember me," he said, "but I am the man who said that I did not want any Bible and I did not believe in anything. I'm back to tell you that what you told me bothered me night and day. I tried so hard to shake it off, but the harder I tried, the unhappier I became; so I took your advice and started praying. Another man had a New Testament, so I borrowed it and, as I read, light began to shine for me. I saw my sins, but I saw also the Saviour and His great forgiveness. A great joy came into my heart, and now I'm back here to tell you about it and to ask you if you will be so kind as to give me a Bible."

This man's story is the story of many others. When directed to the Book of God they meet their sins face to face and find, as nowhere else, the way, through God's mercy, where heart and conscience can be cleansed from guilt through the blood of Christ Our Saviour. His words, "I was in prison and ye came unto me," and "what ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto me," belong to all of you who make this great work possible through your supply of Testaments, Bibles and Portions.

[Note: Mr. Ostergren is a staff member of the Interdenominational Religious Work Foundation, which has charge of Christian work in State institutions and which receives large donations of Scriptures every year from the American Bible Society.]

The Scriptures in 1,034 Languages

EACH YEAR at this time the Society has announced the number of languages in which the Scriptures have been translated and published. Hitherto the figure has included a small number of languages in which only short passages or collections of passages

are included, but in which no complete Book of the Bible has been printed. At the request of the United Bible Societies this annual release will no longer include this latter category, which at present contains 91 languages. As of January 1, 1951 the list is therefore as follows:

Languages in which the whole Bible has been published, 191.

Languages in which a complete Testament has been published, 246.

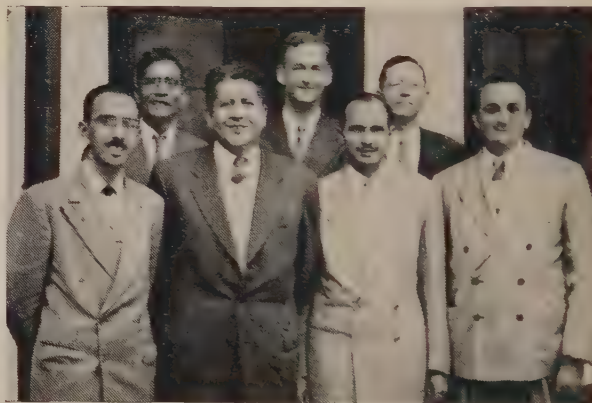
Languages in which at least a Gospel or other whole book has been published, 597.

Total languages in which some whole part of the Bible has been published, 1,034.

During the year the whole Bible appeared for the first time in the Kashgar Turki, spoken in Sinkiang (Turkistan), and New Testaments were published for the first time in Kikwango, spoken in the Belgian Congo, and in Kurukh, spoken in the Central Provinces of India.

The languages newly added were:

Chin: Laizo	Burma	Gospels and The Acts
Dyak: Maanjan	Borneo	Luke
English: Lancashire:		
Radcliffe	England	James
Jorai	Annam	Mark, John
Nyimang	Sudan	Mark
Riang Lang	Burma	Mark
Romany: Italian	Italy	Song of Solomon
Sara: Madjingai	French East Africa	John



The accompanying picture was taken in San José, Costa Rica, where, as guests of the Latin American Mission there, the Revision Committee of the Valera Version of the Spanish Bible recently completed the first of four projected sessions. The committee consists of (left to right), front row, Alfonso Rodriguez of Cuba, Henry Parra of Colombia, Alphonso Lloreda of Venezuela, Honorio Espinoza of Chile. The member at the left in the back row is Juan Díaz of Mexico; beside him are John R. Twentyman and Eugene A. Nida of the British and Foreign and American Bible Societies, respectively, who are assisting the committee. Two other members, Francisco Estrella of Mexico and Santiago Canclini of Argentina, could not be present for the picture.

It is the committee's purpose to produce a version of the Spanish Bible which will conserve the beauty of the present translation, used throughout the Spanish-speaking world, but which will bring the language and orthography into line with present-day usage.

MEMBERS' FORUM

[Annual Membership in the Society is secured through a gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From Jenkintown, Pennsylvania:

It gives me great satisfaction to send my check to you for \$50 as an additional contribution from my wife and myself in memory of my mother, who was a member of your Society in recent years.

I am interested in your wondrous, gigantic endeavor of printing and sending the Scriptures to every part of the world.

From Beatrice, Nebraska:

It was my purpose to add \$50 to my savings account in January 1951 to help take care of a personal need which I thought might be "right around the corner." But I have decided to "trust and not be afraid" and so am sending that amount to you for Bibles for Japan, Korea or perhaps other needy fields. It seems to me that to give Scriptures is one of the best methods we have to be of help.

From South Fort Mitchell, Kentucky:

This is in answer to Lowell Thomas' appeal for funds to be used for Bibles. When the letter arrived I felt that I should try to send a little of my tithe for this purpose. So check for \$25 is enclosed.

If only we could get the world to read this precious Book, we would have no trouble in solving the many problems which confront us these days. May our Heavenly Father richly bless your work, to His name's honor and glory.

From Columbia, South Carolina:

Enclosed herewith you will find a check for \$25. Please use ten dollars to supply Testaments to our boys in service, and the other, please use where most needed.

I deeply feel that the Bible is the only answer to the distress in this world. You are fulfilling the greatest mission in this world.

From an Oil Company, Dallas, Texas:

Mighty glad to get all the good news from you in the last copy of the *Record*. We think you are doing one of the best jobs in the world to redeem and transform humanity in this time of crisis.

We herewith enclose you check for the sum of \$200, which we will ask that you apply in full to your work in Japan.

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa:

Since there are many who have never yet seen a Bible or heard the Word preached, it is in the hope that the Society's work will rapidly reach many such that I rejoice in sending again to the Society's work.

From Lisbon, New York:

I am glad to have my son Dale send his name for the "Good Will book" and his contribution (\$26), as he spent many months in Japan as a soldier in the Signal Corps. He liked the Japanese people and knew personally some of the Japanese Christians.

From Clarksburg, West Virginia, with a check for \$27:

I work two Sundays past, so I thought that it belonged to the Lord. So I am sending it all, hoping that the Bible will go out more for the glory of God. Amen.

From Denver, Colorado:

You may be interested to know that this is the "first instalment" upon a sort of financial covenant I made with the Lord about six years ago. At that time I had just bowed to His will that I was not to be allowed to go to the foreign field as a missionary, so I looked for a field here at home where I could be used to help send others and promote His work abroad. After years of training as a teacher, missionary and stenographer, among other positions, He led me back to an occupation that had been close to my heart since my first school days—fiction writing. Before I ever sold a dime's worth of material, I promised Him that 25 percent of every sale or royalty check would go to further the cause of foreign missions in some way.

During the past year, since the notice of acceptance of my novel, "As the Stars Forever," speakers I have heard and articles I have read have put Japan and Korea particularly upon my heart, and I know of no organization doing more to get the Scriptures into the hands of these literate peoples who can best use it right now than your Society. So here is the promised part of the royalty of the first three months' sales of the book.

From Pasadena, California:

My wife and I are sending you a check for \$20 to be used for the "Good Will book" for Japan.

When I landed in this country more than fifty years ago, an agent from the American Bible Society met me with a Bible and said, "I want you to have this Bible; the price is twenty-five cents, but if you haven't got the twenty-five cents, you get the Bible anyhow." I paid him the twenty-five cents and I have the Bible yet. The American Bible Society has a warm place in my heart and I like to help distribute the Word of God to the ends of the earth.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the

Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JUNE

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Ecclesiastes	3	16	Isaiah	45:1-17
2	Ecclesiastes	11	17	Sunday,	
3	Sunday,			Lamentations	3:22-36
	Ecclesiastes	12	18	Joel	2:12-32
4	Psalms	25	19	Zechariah	8:3-8
5	Psalms	43	20	I John	3
6	Psalms	84	21	I John	4
7	Psalms	86	22	I John	5
8	Psalms	124	23	Luke	1:26-56
9	Psalms	143	24	Sunday,	
10	Sunday,			Luke	1:57-80
	Psalms	146	25	Luke	3:1-18
11	Isaiah	6	26	Luke	4:33-44
12	Isaiah	9:1-7	27	Luke	5:1-11
13	Isaiah	11:1-9	28	Luke	5:12-26
14	Isaiah	26:1-13	29	Luke	5:27-39
15	Isaiah	40	30	II Thessalonians	2

JULY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Sunday,		16	Isaiah	35
	Psalms	65	17	Isaiah	41:10-29
2	Psalms	100	18	Isaiah	48
3	Psalms	145	19	John	16
4	Deuteronomy		20	John	20:19-31
		4:1-24	21	John	21:1-14
5	Deuteronomy		22	Sunday,	
		4:25-40		John	21:15-25
6	Proverbs	1	23	Romans	2:1-11
7	Proverbs	6:1-19	24	Romans	5
8	Sunday,		25	Romans	6
	Proverbs	7	26	Romans	7
9	Proverbs	8:1-21	27	Romans	8
10	Proverbs	17	28	Romans	11:16-36
11	Proverbs	18	29	Sunday,	
12	Proverbs	20		Romans	15
13	Proverbs	28	30	Amos	3
14	Proverbs	30:7-33	31	Amos	5:10-24
15	Sunday, Isaiah	12			

Big Type Blessings

Chaplain David R. Kabele serves the U.S. Naval Hospital at San Diego, California. At his request the Society recently sent a small supply of volumes printed in Great Primer type which has proven so comforting to those with failing eyesight. Chaplain Kabele writes:

I want to personally thank you for your kindness in sending to me a carton of 12 Great Primer New Testaments with Psalms. They were received in perfect condition.

Already a few aged folk are enjoying them. From the bottom of their hearts they also want to thank you and the American Bible Society for your kindness in the matter. For months they have not been able to read God's Word and now they are enjoying the comfort of His Holy Word again. Your prompt service in this matter was greatly appreciated.

* *

Visitors to the Bible House

Among the visitors to the Bible House in March were Rev. and Mrs. J. C. F. Robertson, who were on their way to England on a short furlough.

Mr. Robertson has served the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society in various capacities in the Far East. He is now the representative of both Societies in Japan and Korea. When they lost their home and all its contents in the bombing of the city of Seoul, the Robertsons were not experiencing anything new; for they had been evacuated from Manchuria, losing all their possessions; and again, while working for the Bible Society on the Burma Road, they had suffered a similar loss.

At a luncheon tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson in New York Mr. Robertson spoke of the presentation of the "Good Will book" to the Japan Bible Society, which, he said, brought the Society's work for 1950 to a stirring climax. "There is in Japan," he said, "a reservoir of good feeling for the American people because of their generosity and friendliness."

* *

Heavy Demand in Cuba

Secretary Molina reports that, in the single month of January this year, 46,000 volumes of Scripture were distributed in Cuba as a result of Bible campaigns carried on by several missions and churches. This is almost one fifth of last year's total distribution. The demand completely exhausted the supply of Spanish Bibles in the Havana depository. Letters received at the Society's Havana office from colporteurs and correspondents stress the urgency of more abundant supplies.

April Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-fifth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, April 5, 1951, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary Stifler, who read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John and offered prayer.

Page proof of the new *Managers' Report* covering the work of 1950 was presented and approved by the Board for presentation to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 10.

It was reported that distribution of the Scriptures in the United States during 1950 totaled 6,230,370 volumes, including distribution of the Scriptures to the Blind, which reached its peak last year.

First copies of the Books of Exodus and II Kings on the new 10-inch Talking Book records were presented.

The Board learned with regret of the death in Helsinki of Archbishop A. E. Lehtonen, Primate of the Lutheran Church of Finland and Chairman of the Board of the Finnish Bible Society.

The Board also learned with regret of the death of Miss Ludovirica Comba, who for many years was in charge of the Montevideo office in Uruguay under the direction of former Secretary Penzotti.

Copies of Secretary Collyer's report on his visit to Liberia were distributed.

Grants of Scriptures in English, French, Kikwango, Portuguese and Kabba-Laka were authorized for shipment to various parts of Africa.

A set of the famous Paris Polyglot Bible containing, in ten huge volumes, the text of the Bible in seven languages—Hebrew, Chaldee, Greek, Latin, Syriac, Arabic and Samaritan—was presented to the Board.

There were also presented sets of the other "great polyglots" of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries which are in the Library of the Society.

* *

The Standing Committee of the United Bible Societies will meet in Oslo, Norway in the middle of June. Treasurer Darlington, who will also visit England on publication matters, will attend the meeting at Oslo.

NEXT ISSUE

There will be, as formerly, no June issue of the *Bible Society Record*. The July issue will reach subscribers about August 1.

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*With his Bible both on Talking Book records
and in Braille this blind minister prepares
his sermon*

"THANK GOD FOR FOLKS LIKE YOU"

[See page 73]

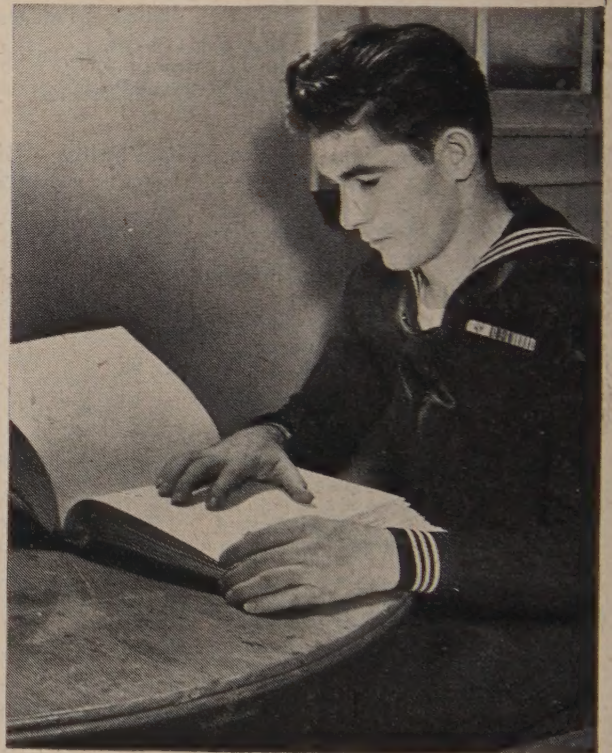
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